

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT  
UPON THE  
HEALTH OF WOLVERHAMPTON  
FOR THE YEAR 1943  
BY  
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Health Offices,  
Town Hall,  
WOLVERHAMPTON.

July, 1944.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Health and  
Maternity and Child Welfare Committees.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present an interim report on the health of  
Wolverhampton for the year 1943.

In accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Health,  
the report again appears in an abridged form and reference is only made to  
the more important sections of the work of the Health Department and to any  
new features that have been introduced.

1. No special comment is needed on the general mortality statistics for  
the year. The general death rate and the infant mortality rate were slightly  
higher than in 1942, but well below those of the country as a whole. There  
was a short but rather severe epidemic of influenza at the end of the year  
which caused a temporary dislocation of community life. It was feared that  
this outbreak might be followed by serious secondary waves, but fortunately  
this did not prove to be the case.

2. In 1943 the birth rate for Wolverhampton reached its highest peak for  
twenty years. This greatly increased the demands for maternity beds.  
Many women are now living in homes unsuitable for a confinement owing to the  
restriction of space and many others are unable to obtain any domestic help.  
The main stress of this increased number of births continues to fall on the  
maternity wards at New Cross Hospital, where some extensions have already  
taken place. As an emergency measure the Corporation acquired a Private  
Maternity Home which was giving up owing to difficulties in obtaining staff.  
This Home dealt with more than two hundred confinements a year and its closure  
would have accentuated the local shortage of maternity accommodation.  
(Further reference to this subject will be found in Section B. of this report).

3. The success of the campaign in favour of diphtheria immunisation is  
now being reflected in the drop in genuine cases of diphtheria occurring in  
the town. In 1941 the net incidence of the disease was 1.2 per 1,000,  
in 1942 it was 0.5 and in 1943 it was only 0.28. The six deaths caused by  
diphtheria were all in persons who had NOT been immunised. Last year I  
called attention to the highly fatal character of the disease in young  
children and stressed the need for preventive inoculation at the age of one  
year or earlier. Rapid headway is now being made in this direction. At  
the end of 1943 80.8 per cent of children between 5 and 15 years and 32.7 per  
cent of children from 0 to 5 years had been given this protection.

My cordial thanks are due to the Chairmen and members of both  
Committees for their help and encouragement during the past year. I desire  
also to commend the members of the staff of the indoor and outdoor staff of  
the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Departments for their loyal  
co-operation and their valuable assistance.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient Servant,

R. H. H. JOLLY,

Medical Officer of Health.



SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA.EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

AREA OF BOROUGH	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,113 Acres.
POPULATION (Registrar-General's estimate)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	147,230.
(Census 1931)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	133,212.
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1943)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40,077.
RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	...	...	£974,814.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£3,910.
		<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>			
LIVE ) Legitimate	2,822	1,471	1,351	BIRTH )			
BIRTHS ) Illegitimate	149	72	77	RATE )			20.2.
STILL BIRTHS	87	48	39				
Rate per 1,000 Births..	...	...	...	...			28.4.
DEATHS	1,697	904	793	DEATH )			
				RATE )			11.5.
NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION	...	...	...	...			1,274.
(Excess of births over deaths in the year).							
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.							
		Deaths.					
(a) Puerperal Sepsis	1			RATE PER )			0.33.
(b) Other Puerperal Causes	2			1,000 BIRTHS )			0.65.
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER	( Legitimate (143)	...	...				51.
ONE YEAR PER 1,000 BIRTHS	( Illegitimate (9)	...	...				60.
	( Total (152)	...	...				51.
DEATH RATE from Measles (1)	...	...	...	...			0.01.
" " " Whooping Cough (5)...	...	...	...	...			0.03.
" " " Diarrhoea and Enteritis (21)							
(under 2 years per 1,000 births)...				...			7.07.
" " " Cancer (223)	...	...	...	...			1.51.
" " " Respiratory Tuberculosis (72)	...	...	...	...			0.49.
" " " all forms of Tuberculosis (82)	...	...	...	...			0.56.

Note:- The figures in the above table are those supplied by the Registrar General.





GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE  
AREA.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(i) Population.

The various rates are calculated on the estimate of civilian population for 1943 furnished by the Registrar General, namely 147,230.

(ii) Births.

There was a further increase in the number of births registered last year and the birth rate rose to 20.2 per 1,000 population. This is the highest birth rate recorded in Wolverhampton since 1923. As usual the male infants exceeded the female infants and were in the proportion of 1,080 to 1,000. There were 87 still births registered, giving a still birth rate of 28.4 per 1,000 total births.

(iii) Deaths.

The general death rate rose slightly from 11.0 in 1942 to 11.5 in 1943. For England and Wales the figure was 12.1 and for the 126 great towns it was 14.2. There were no important variations in the distribution of deaths between the various classified causes. Deaths from cancer numbered 223 as compared with 230 in 1942, whilst deaths from all forms of tuberculosis dropped from 87 to 82. Influenza was responsible for 47 deaths, of which 41 were persons over 45 years of age. Thirty of those occurred in the last four weeks of the year. (See also page 13).

(iv) Infant Mortality.

After falling to its lowest recorded figure (46) in 1942, the infant mortality rate rose in 1943 to 51 deaths under one year per 1,000 births. Although tremendous strides have been made in the past twenty years in reducing this wastage of child life, more still remains to be done. It should be quite possible to maintain a rate of 30 when all the avoidable causes of infant mortality have been removed. Increased care of the premature and the delicate baby and improved ante-natal supervision are the most promising lines of attack. The infant mortality rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1943 was 49 and for the 126 great towns, including London, it was 58.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(a) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

There has been no change in the arrangements for infant consultations and clinics for expectant mothers during the past twelve months. A total of 1,506 new children were registered at the clinics and the total attendances were 15,663. At the ante-natal clinics the average attendance per session was 21 and there was a total attendance of 1,329 new cases. The attendances of expectant mothers during the year amounted to 7,489. In addition the health visitors paid 24,243 home visits to children under five years of age.

(b) MIDWIVES.

The number of midwives who notified their intention to practise during 1943 was as follows:-

≠	Trained midwives working in institutions	...	...	40
	Municipal Midwives	...	...	17
x	Trained midwives working independently	...	...	8

≠ This number includes matrons of institutions and district nurses who do not normally practise midwifery.

x Two of this number who notified their intention to practise took only one case each during the year.





In spite of the blackout and transport difficulties the Municipal Midwifery Service continued to function well and give valuable service. During the year Corporation midwives attended (14,019) confinements. The approved establishment is eighteen midwives, but it was impossible to maintain this number owing to shortage of trained personnel. At the beginning of 1943 there were seventeen midwives working for the Corporation, fifteen of whom had districts of their own, the remaining two being on relief work. This seems to be the most satisfactory arrangement for providing for holidays, sickness and days off. Excluding the work done by relief midwives, the number of confinements taken by an individual midwife varied between 134 and 66 and the mean was 89.

(c) MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Only three deaths from puerperal causes were recorded during 1943. Of these one was due to puerperal sepsis and the other two to obstetric shock. This gives the exceptionally low maternal mortality figure of 0.98 per 1,000 births. The following is a short summary of the three deaths:-

- (i) Ante-natal care in this case was undertaken by a doctor. The general condition of the patient during pregnancy was satisfactory. The delivery was completed by forceps. There was delay in the third stage and the patient collapsed and died before it was completed. The cause of death was Obstetric Shock.
- (ii) This patient attended an ante-natal clinic during her pregnancy. Her general condition was good. It was a case of twin pregnancy and arrangements were made for her confinement in hospital. Labour proceeded satisfactorily and she was delivered normally of the first twin. Soon afterwards she had a haemorrhage and collapsed. She was given treatment and improved considerably but about four hours later she again collapsed and died. A post mortem examination was performed. The cause of death was Obstetric Shock following twin pregnancy and Post-partum Haemorrhage.
- (iii) This was a case of abortion. The patient was admitted to hospital complaining of severe abdominal pain and with a history of haemorrhage for two weeks. She was very ill and had advanced peritonitis. An operation for drainage was performed but her condition did not improve and she died seven days after admission to hospital. A post mortem examination was performed. The cause of death was septicæmia and general peritonitis.

For England and Wales the provisional maternal mortality figures for 1943 are 2.29. The Departmental Committee of Maternal Mortality (1942) stated "that the primary essential for the reduction of a high maternal mortality is sound midwifery before, during and after birth". A report recently issued by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on "A National Maternity Service" urges the need for more maternity beds and suggests a figure of five beds, including ante-natal beds, per one hundred births. In this report it is recommended that provision should be made in institutions for seventy per cent of all births. It is further stated that "modern institutional midwifery can be made remarkably safe, with a puerperal mortality much lower than that for the country as a whole", and examples are quoted in support of this. Another of the recommendations is that there should be post-natal hostels to which mothers and their babies could be sent for a short time after the usual lying-in period of fourteen days.

(d) MUNICIPAL MATERNITY HOME (THE BEECHES).

In April, 1943, the Council approved a scheme for the acquisition of a Private Maternity Home in the Borough with accommodation for twelve maternity cases. This Home comprised two adjoining houses on the Tottenhall Road, one of which was purchased outright and the other was rented from the owner. They also purchased the whole of the furnishings and equipment of the Home and made certain structural alterations and renovations in order to increase the accommodation for the nursing staff. Each patient was to have a bedroom to herself thus removing the need for a special isolation room. After preparing



(d) MUNICIPAL MATERNITY HOME (Continued).

estimates of the probable running costs and assuming that the beds would normally be 70 per cent to 80 per cent occupied, the Borough Treasurer calculated that charge of at least eight guineas per week would have to be made in order that the Home might be self supporting. It was decided to fix this as the maximum fee subject to revision by the Council when accurate running costs were ascertained. Every patient would be required to pay the whole fee without rebate. The Home was opened in October, 1943, and fourteen cases had been admitted at the end of the year, but even at that date the beds were fully booked for the following March, April and May. It looks as if this Home would meet a real need and become very popular. At the same time the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee take the view that this Home is only a temporary one and that an up-to-date maternity institution of thirty to fifty beds will need to be built after the war.

(e) ANTE-NATAL CARE.

During the year 3,696 deliveries took place in the Borough. Out of that number 3,452 are known to have had ante-natal care by a doctor during pregnancy. The number of confinements taking place at New Cross Hospital continues to increase. There is also a considerable increase in the number of patients engaging a doctor and being confined at home. The following table is self explanatory:-

Number attending the Municipal A.N. Clinic	...	1,329
" " a Doctor under the A.N. Scheme	...	720
" " A.N. Clinic at Women's Hospital	...	163
" " " " at New Cross Hospital	...	380
" confined in Nursing Homes who engaged a doctor	...	403
" " at home known to have engaged a doctor	...	403
" living in and confined in institutions under the care of a doctor	...	49
		<u>3,452</u>

(f) NURSING HOMES.

The number of Registered Nursing Homes in the Borough is now ten. During the year one Nursing Home which had previously been privately owned was taken over by the Local Authority and was converted into a Municipal Maternity Home consisting of twelve maternity beds. The Nursing Homes, therefore, now provide, excluding the Municipal Maternity Home, forty maternity beds and twenty-three medical or surgical beds. During the year the keeper of one Maternity Home was censured by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for failure to notify a rise of temperature occurring in her Home. Otherwise the Homes, considering the difficulties of war-time conditions, are satisfactory.

(g) WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

The three war-time nurseries, i.e. The Woodlands, Marston Road and Elston Hall, are being carried on in a very successful manner. Each nursery is a training school for probationers taking the diploma of the National Society of Day Nurseries. The standard of efficiency is therefore maintained at a high level. The following table gives the attendances at each nursery during the year. The table includes attendances on Saturdays, which are low, thus lowering the average:-

	<u>WOODLANDS.</u>	<u>ELSTON HALL.</u>	<u>MARSTON ROAD.</u>
Number of days open:	306	306	306
Attendances under 2 years:	2,442	2,230	3,122
Attendances 2 to 5 years:	9,577	5,386	5,509
Average daily attendance under 2yrs:	7.9	7.2	10.2
Average daily attendance 2 to 5yrs:	30.6	19.2	17.3





(g) WAR-TIME NURSERIES (Continued).

Immunisation against diphtheria was carried out as follows:-

	<u>WOODLANDS.</u>	<u>ELSTON HALL.</u>	<u>MARSTON ROAD.</u>
Number of children already immunised on admission:	15	20	22
Number of children immunised in the Nursery:	28	31	22
Number of refusals:	-	1	-

Immunisation against Whooping Cough was carried out as follows:-

	<u>WOODLANDS.</u>	<u>ELSTON HALL.</u>	<u>MARSTON ROAD.</u>
Number of children reported to have had whooping cough when admitted:	14	12	12
Number immunised against whooping cough:	31	42	22
Number of refusals:	2	1	-

Since immunisation against Pertussis was commenced there has been no outbreak of whooping cough in any of the nurseries. One child in the Woodlands Nursery whose parent refused immunisation developed whooping cough six months after admission. One contact developed whooping cough and that child was reported to have already had whooping cough when it was admitted. In Elston Hall Nursery one child who had not been immunised against whooping cough developed the disease, and four other children who were contacts and who had not been immunised were done straight away. No further cases developed. In Marston Road Nursery one child who had only been in the nursery for fifteen days developed whooping cough. There were no further cases.

During the year there was an outbreak of measles at the Woodlands Nursery, when thirty-four children contracted the disease. There were also ten cases of chicken pox, seven cases of mumps and one case of scarlet fever. There were no outbreaks of infectious disease at Elston Hall or at Marston Road Nurseries. At the latter, two cases of scarlet fever, four cases of chicken pox and two cases of German Measles occurred during the year.

Regular medical examinations of the children take place at the nurseries and children are referred as necessary for Orthopaedic and for Sunlight treatment. The Villiers Engineering Company very kindly allowed the children at Marston Road Nursery to have the use of their Ultra Violet Ray Lamp, and regular exposures are given to all the children at that nursery, with very beneficial results on catarrhal conditions.

(h) INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The Infant Life Protection Visitors paid 74 visits during the year 1943. Of the 38 children under supervision, 13 were schoolchildren. There were 13 new cases and 9 were returned to their parents. On December 31st, 1943, 29 foster children were on the books under 27 foster mothers. There were 36 applications for adoption, 35 Orders being made and one refused.

(1) ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

The usefulness of this clinic has now been increased by the provision of an artificial sunlight department with a carbon arc lamp. The Orthopaedic Nurse is in charge of this treatment, which was first commenced in April, 1943. Since that date 94 children have had a course of artificial sunlight and made a total of 982 attendances. Conditions for which treatment was given include general debility, orthopaedic defects and respiratory conditions. Fifty of the children were of school age and the remainder of pre-school age. The ordinary routine work of the Orthopaedic Department continues as before with





(i) ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC (Continued).

massage, exercises, electrical treatment and the provision of plasters, splints and other appliances. A brief summary of the activities is as follows:-

	<u>HEALTH</u>	<u>EDUCATION</u>
Number of sessions:	52	52
Number of new cases:	115	284
Attendances:	1,535	6,045
Visits:	6	4
Splints:	42	209

(j) CLEANLINESS.

During the latter half of 1943 a special campaign was undertaken to improve the general standard of cleanliness among the juvenile population. In the schools there were an increased number of cleanliness inspections and the School Medical Officers delivered a series of talks on the subject. Special displays of films were given including "Cleanliness is Happiness", "Unwanted Guests" and "Giro the Germ". The Local Education Authority appointed a special cleansing attendant to deal with children suffering from scabies and verminous conditions and interview and advise parents on methods of combating the head louse. The health visitors also paid extra attention to the subject of cleanliness of children under five and quite a number of cases were referred by them to be dealt with by the cleansing attendant.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.(1) WATER SUPPLY.

Samples of water were regularly taken in connection with the Corporation supply, each sample being submitted for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. During the year thirty-seven samples were submitted for chemical analysis and thirty-eight for bacteriological examination. All the samples were satisfactory.

The bulk of Wolverhampton's water supplies are obtained from deep borings with a certain amount of purified stream water added. The supply is constant and adequate amounts have been maintained, although the position has occasionally given rise to some anxiety. Although a very few shallow wells still exist, practically the entire population receive pipe water supply.

Water mains have been extended during the year for a distance of approximately 38 yards within the Corporation's area of supply.

One hundred and fifteen cases of waste of water from defective water fittings were referred to the Water Engineer. Seventeen houses were provided with a proper water supply inside the house.

(2) NUISANCES.

Apart from the notices served under the various statutory clauses giving powers to require particular amenities, 2,437 premises were reported to the Committee during the year, preparatory to the service of formal notices requiring abatement of nuisances.

(3) OVERCROWDING.Cases of Overcrowding Remedied, 1943.

By Displacements under Part 2 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	Nil.
By Displacements under Part 3 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	3.
By Transference of families in overcrowded Council houses to larger houses	...	Nil.
By allocation of Council houses to families in privately owned houses	...	1.
By removal or reduction in the size of families	...	16.
		<u>20.</u>
Cases remedied after service of notices under sections 59 or 66 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	17.
TOTAL ABATED	...	<u>37.</u>

(4) THE RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

(a) Written complaints received re rat infestation	...	97
Verbal complaints received re rat infestation	...	201
Total complaints received	...	<u>298</u>
(b) Houses found to be infested with rats	...	857
Houses found to be infested with mice	...	291
(c) Number of rodents caught and destroyed:-		
On rat lime	...	123
Alive	...	367
By the use of traps	...	113
By other means	...	83
TOTALS	...	<u>686</u> <u>368</u>

It is, of course, impossible to give figures regarding the number of rats and mice destroyed by lethal gas or poison baits.









SECTION D.HOUSING CONDITIONS : THE HOUSING ACT 1926 to 1936.PART 3 : CLEARANCE AREAS.THE DALE STREET CLEARANCE AREA.

The Compulsory Purchase Order with respect to the No.1 Area was confirmed by the Minister on the 30th April, 1940, and although 235 houses which were in a potentially dangerous condition, have been demolished, 95 of the houses remaining occupied have deteriorated to such an extent that Council were compelled to seek authority from the Minister to carry the Compulsory Purchase Order into effect and thereafter carry out urgent repairs with a view to perpetuating the houses for the period of hostilities. The necessary authority was duly obtained and the Owners concerned were thereupon given the option of carrying out the works specified and thereafter retaining the property for the period of hostilities. The owners of 95 houses were approached and in respect of 54 houses, the owners agreed to do the work; in the remaining 41 houses, the Corporation acquired the property and have commenced to carry out the necessary work.

Since 1925 there have been 2,181 houses in clearance areas which have been demolished under the Housing Acts 1890 to 1936. This includes 16 houses in the Monmore Green and Dale Street Areas which were pulled down in 1943.

The total number of persons displaced under the clearance schemes of the Corporation now amounts to 9,258.



(1) AMENDMENT OR EXTENSION OF STATUTORY POWERS.

Apart from purely emergency legislation, there has not been any notable change in existing Statutory Powers.

(2) MILK SUPPLY.

The action necessary to bring and maintain producers' premises to the prescribed standard was continued throughout the year, with a result that miscellaneous improvements have been carried out to three existing cowsheds. One new cowshed and dairy was constructed.

With regard to retailers' premises, two purveyors of milk have been provided with proper dairy premises, subsequent to the service of notices under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. Three new pasteurising plants, churn-washing plants and improved bottling plant have been installed in three dairies.

Apart from the supervision of producers' premises by the Ministry's Veterinary Inspector, the various dairy farms and retailers' premises within the district are regularly visited by the Specialist Inspector; during the year 260 inspections of cowsheds and 999 inspections of dairies and milkshops were made.

On December 31st, 1943, the number of premises and persons registered under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, was as follows :-

Cowsheds :	19	Retail Purveyors (in general) :	130
Dairies :	24	Purveyors of bottled milk only :	544

Licences in force under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, were as follows :-

Pastourised :	21	Tuberculin Tested	
Accredited :	18	(Certified) :	2
		Tuberculin Tested :	9

Bacteriological and Biological Examination of Milk Samples.

With a view to ensuring that the milk supply of the Borough is maintained at a high standard bacteriologically and free from living tubercle bacilli, samples were taken during the year from all of the producers of milk whose premises are inside the Borough.

The undermentioned table summarises the administrative procedure and the results finally obtained in connection with the routine samples submitted for biological examination and found to contain living tubercle bacilli :-

		Number reported				Result of subse-		TOTAL	
:Number		: positive to				:quent action under:		Number of Bovines	
: of		: Tubercle bacilli				:Tuberculosis Order:		slaughtered at	
:Samples						: 1938.		:Abattoir under Order	
:submitted		:Prod-	:Prod-	:	:	:Number	:Result	:From	:From
: for		:uced	:uced	:	:	: of	: of	:prem-	:prem-
:Biological		:within	:out-	:TOTAL	:animals	:further	:sample	:ises	:ises
:examina-		:Borough	:side	:	: slau-	:sample	:	:within	:out-
:tion 1943		:	:Borough	:	:ghtered	:	:	:the	:side
		:	:	:	:	:	:	:Bor-	:Bor-
		:	:	:	:	:	:	:ough.	:ough.
Tuberculin Tested	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	:	:
Notified	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	:	:
Pasteurised	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	:	:
Notified	24	1	1	2	2	Negative	:	:	:
TOTAL ...	41	1	1	2	2	-	:	2	37 : 39 0

Of this total, 17 showed generalised Tuberculosis and the whole of the carcasses and offal were condemned.



(3) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There is no alteration in the number of Inspectors employed at the Abattoir. One clerk (female) - part-time - was appointed in February and is still employed in the department.

The weight of meat and offals condemned during the year is 219 tons 19 cwts; an increase of approximately 70 tons over last year. Of this increase 52 tons were condemned from cows (other than cattle).

64.25% of cows were affected with tuberculosis in some form (increase 11.52%). Other diseases in cows accounted for 56.55% (increase 8.55%).

The number of animals slaughtered is 95,339, an increase of 7,022. Of this increase 195 were cows and 3,200 were cattle.

Meat and Offals condemned from sources outside the Borough and submitted for inspection at the Abattoir were 3 tons 9 cwts 8 lbs.

Under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order 39 cows were slaughtered. Seventeen were wholly condemned as being affected with advanced tuberculosis.

The following table gives the percentage increase or decrease over 1942 in the number of animals affected with disease:-

	: Cattle	: Cows (other than Cattle)	: Calves	: Sheep	: Pigs
diseases except tuberculosis	+ 3.00	+ 8.55	+ 0.17	+ 0.29	+ 0.08
tuberculosis only	+ 2.16	+ 11.52	- 0.10	-	- 5.18

Visits to the Abattoir have been made from time to time by the Ministry of Food's Technical Adviser on Meat Inspection. Questions as to the interpretation of Memo. 62/Foods, the disposal of fat unfit for human consumption for use in engineering works and general methods of inspection have been discussed. No alteration in local procedure has been suggested.

(4) AMENITIES IN FOOD PREMISES.

Additional hot water supplies were provided during the year as follows :-

Dairies	- 2	Restaurants and Cafes	- 18	Bakchouses	- 1
Butchers Shops	- 2	Provision Shops	- 2	Cooked Meat Shops	- 3
		Food Manufacturing Premises	- 5		

(5) THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.Sampling.

The number of samples of food and drugs taken during the year for analysis by the Public Analyst was 222, consisting of 14 Formal Samples and 208 Informal Samples. Seventeen Samples (7.6%) consisting of 7 Formal Samples and 10 Informal samples were found to be non-genuine.

Eighty-two samples of milk were submitted for analysis and all were reported to reach the presumptive standard of 3% milk fat laid down by the Sale of Milk Regulations.

A number of prosecutions were taken under S.6 of the Act in respect of articles of food sold with a misleading description or label.

An article labelled "Pudding Mixture with Egg" was found to be entirely devoid of egg. The vendors were convicted and a fine of £15 inflicted with £4.17.0d. costs.







(5) THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938. (Continued).

A sample of Gelatine was found to contain 1/16 grain per pound of Arsonious Oxide and proceedings resulted in a fine of £10 and £3.16.6d. costs.

A sample of White Precipitate Ointment was reported to be 85% deficient of Armoniated Mercury. The defendant was dealt with under the Probation of Offenders Act and required to pay costs amounting to £4.19.0d.

No infringement of the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations or of the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations were reported.

All samples submitted for analysis are examined for the presence of a preservative. No prohibited preservatives or colouring matter were found, and no preservative was found in any article of food to which the addition of a preservative of any description is forbidden.



The incidence of infectious disease during 1943 was very satisfactory when compared with previous years. Only two diseases, measles and influenza, showed a rise in numbers above those of 1942. Scarlet fever remained mild in character with a sharp decline from 756 in 1942 to 478 in 1943. Diphtheria decreased from 128 notified cases during the previous year to 86 this year. The low incident and mortality rate of this disease may reasonably be attributed to the high percentage of immunised children in Wolverhampton. During the last quarter of the year there was a sharp epidemic of moderately severe influenza. There were 34 deaths from this disease during this last quarter compared with 51 deaths for the whole year.

#### SCARLET FEVER.

478 cases were notified during the year, a decrease of 278 compared with 1942. In 12 of these cases the diagnosis was revised, giving a net incidence of 466 or 3.2 per 1,000 of the population. No deaths occurred.

#### DIPHTHERIA.

The number of cases showed a notable decrease. There were 86 notifications, 43 of which were subsequently revised, giving a net incidence of 43 or .28 per 1,000 of the population. There were 6 deaths (all unimmunised cases). Five occurred in the Borough Hospital and one died at Solihull who was normally resident in Wolverhampton.

#### MEASLES.

2,098 cases were notified. Ten of these were removed to hospital. There was one death which occurred at home in an unnotified case.

#### WHOOPING COUGH.

There were 444 cases notified, 5 being admitted to hospital. Five died, 3 in hospital and 2 at home.

#### INFLUENZA.

This disease appeared in epidemic form in Wolverhampton at the end of November. In the great majority of cases the illness was of short duration without serious complications, but the disease was extremely widespread. Fatal cases were confined to persons over fifteen years of age, and the mortality was in direct proportion to the age of the sufferer. Between November 27th and the end of December thirty-two deaths occurred of which 21 were in persons over 65 and 6 in persons between 45 and 65. The weekly death roll from influenza was as follows :-

November 20th	-	0	December 18th	-	9
" 27th	-	1	" 25th	-	6
December 4th	-	1	" 31st	-	6
" 11th	-	9	January 7th	-	0

As soon as it became apparent that influenza had obtained a firm grip on the town a conference was called with the Commandants of the various Red Cross and St. John organisations in the town and with the W.V.S., to devise a scheme for providing nursing and domestic help to stricken families. These bodies at once offered their full co-operation and help. It was arranged that trained members of the Red Cross Society and of the St. John Ambulance Association should supply part-time nursing as required whilst their junior members and members of the W.V.S. would give temporary help in the homes and do any urgent shopping for families suffering from influenza. To prevent the scheme being exploited, all requests for nursing or domestic help had to be made to the Health Department by the doctor in attendance on the patient. Applications were then referred to the Headquarters of the organisations concerned for necessary action. In addition to this, a certain number of whole-time members of the First Aid Posts were sent to do night duty for more serious cases. Fortunately the outbreak subsided very quickly and the calls for assistance were not numerous. The machinery of the scheme remains in existence and can again be called upon for a future emergency. Mention must also be made of the help given by the Army to overworked general practitioners during the epidemic. Any genuine request for help was immediately met by the loan of a medical officer from the Services.



MISCELLANEOUS.

ENTERIC FEVER. Only one case was notified which recovered.

DYSENTERY. None was notified.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER. Ten notifications, one of which was revised.

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS. Three cases were notified but one was revised. The two actual cases both recovered in hospital.

ERYSIPELAS. There were 29 cases, one being later revised. One death from Erysipelas occurred in the County Mental Hospital.

B O R O U G H   H O S P I T A L .

The acute shortage of nursing staff which occurred during 1942 has been remedied and the position has been satisfactory during this year. The Hospital was able to render a valuable service to nearby Stations of H.M. Forces by admitting 177 Service cases.

1. SCARLET FEVER.

241 cases were admitted, 56 being received from other Authorities, including 16 from the Services. 19 of these were later revised as follows :-

Common Cold (1)	Rubella (9)
Mumps (1)	Measles (1)
Tonsillitis (5)	Broncho-Pneumonia (1)
Food Rash (1)	

There were 6 cases notified as Diphtheria which were revised to that of Scarlet Fever. Of the 228 actual cases treated, all were of a mild type except one Septic Scarlet Fever. There was one death - a member of the R.A.F. who died with the complication of Pneumonia.

Complications:-	Adenitis	- 7 (4 of which needed surgical
	Acute Rheumatism	- 1 interference).
	Broncho-Pneumonia	- 1 (Died).
	Quinsy	- 2
	Nephritis	- 2

2. DIPHTHERIA.

128 cases notified as Diphtheria were admitted, 40 being from outside the Borough. Of these cases 67 were revised as follows :-

Tonsillitis (33)	Quinsy (2)
Carriers (14)	Foreign Body in Larynx (1)
Vincent's Angina (8)	Measles (1)
Scarlet Fever (6)	No evidence of disease (1)
Laryngitis (1)	

Of the 61 actual cases, 43 were from Wolverhampton and 18 from outside the Borough.

There were twelve who had been immunised, all of whom made uninterrupted recoveries without any complications. The remaining 49 cases had not been immunised and were more severe in type. Seven of them died, giving a mortality rate for these unimmunised cases of 14.3 per cent - an exceedingly high figure.

There was only one case of Laryngeal Diphtheria and this recovered without a tracheotomy.





The incidence of complication was high amongst these unimmunised cases :-

Myocarditis occurred in 10 cases.  
 Pharyngeal Paralysis " 2 "  
 Palatal " " 5 "  
 Ocular " " 2 "  
 Ciliary " " 2 "  
 Neck " " 2 "

	AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE.				
	0 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	Over 20	Total
Males	6	14	13	2	35
Females	9	6	7	4	26
TOTAL	15	20	20	6	61

3. OTHER DISEASES.

Erysipelas (4) 1 revised to late measles.  
 1 revised to Dermato-myositis (died).  
Mumps (4) All recovered.  
Poliomyelitis (1) Revised to rickets - recovered.  
Cerebro-Spinal Fever (1) One revised to acute infective endocarditis  
 The actual case of cerebro-spinal (died).  
 fever recovered.  
Rubella (64) All Service cases. 5 revised to measles.  
Measles (73) 40 revised to rubella.  
 1 no evidence of disease.  
 1 Barlow's Disease (died).  
 1 Food Poisoning.  
 1 Common Cold.

Complications in actual measles cases :-

Pneumonia (5) )  
 Encephalitis (1) ) All recovered.  
 Cerebral Laryngitis (1) )  
Enteric Fever (4) 1 revised to Influenza.  
 1 " " Malaria.  
 1 " " Acute Infective Endocarditis (died).  
 The one actual case of Enteric recovered.  
Whooping Cough (4) Complications - Pneumonia - 3.  
 Cavernous Sinus Thrombosis - 1.  
 All recovered.



## D I P H T H E R I A   I M M U N I S A T I O N .

In 1943 a total of 3,193 children were immunised. This number comprised 855 in schools and 1,767 in welfare clinics, 172 by private doctors, 50 in the Borough Isolation Hospital, 284 in School Clinics and 65 in the Day Nurseries.

Immunisations performed at various centres were:-

<u>Welfare Clinic.</u>	<u>Pre-School Children.</u>	<u>School Children.</u>
Lea Road	524	110
Stafford Street	366	13
Park Lane	351	30
Fordhouses	164	16
Ward Street	145	48
	<u>1,550</u>	<u>217</u>
Central Clinic (North Street)	258	20
Bushbury Lane School Clinic	1	5
Private Doctors	163	9
Borough Isolation Hospital	50	-
Day Nurseries	65	-
	<u>2,087</u>	<u>251</u>

It is estimated that at the end of 1943 80.8% of children from 5 - 15 years were immunised and 32.7% of children from 0 - 5 years

## TUBERCULOSIS.

(i) Notification: The notifications on the Case Register at the end of the year were as follows :-

<u>Pulmonary Tuberculosis</u> : Males - 389	<u>Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis</u> : Males - 98
Females - 288	Females - 91

(ii) Incidence: There was a further rise in the number of individual cases of tuberculosis as follows :-

1940 - 123	1942 - 141
1941 - 163	1943 - 195

In males the heaviest incidence was spread over the age periods 15 to 45, but in women the age group 15 to 25 continues to be the one most seriously affected.

(iii) Deaths: The total deaths from respiratory tuberculosis were almost identical for each class with those in 1942 - they were males 48, females 25. Non-respiratory tuberculosis accounted for 10 deaths, viz:- 3 males and 7 females. The death rate from all forms of tuberculosis was 0.56 per 1,000 population.

## VENEREAL DISEASES.

The following tables illustrate the work of the V.D. Treatment Centre for the past five years as compared with the mean of the five years immediately preceding the war :-



SYPHILIS										
On Books.		New Cases.		TOTAL.	Defaulters.					
M.	F.	M.	F.		M.		F.		TOTAL.	
Average										
for years										
1934 to										
1938	89	85	60	57	291	5	3.4%	4	2.8%	9 3.1%
1939	62	69	48	31	210	1	0.9%	2	2.0%	3 1.4%
1940	69	63	41	52	225	4	3.6%	5	4.7%	9 4.0%
1941	66	67	42	48	223	3	2.8%	3	2.6%	6 2.7%
1942	52	57	59	65	233	5	4.5%	4	3.3%	9 3.9%
1943	58	67	79	62	266	1	0.7%	2	1.5%	3 1.1%

GONORRHOEA.										
On Books.		New Cases.		TOTAL.	Defaulters.					
M.	F.	M.	F.		M.		F.		TOTAL.	
Average										
for years										
1934 to										
1938	56	40	156	80	332	12	5.7%	6	5.0%	18 5.4%
1939	34	31	122	68	255	15	9.6%	1	1.0%	16 6.3%
1940	16	33	97	63	209	9	8.0%	7	7.3%	16 7.7%
1941	24	33	167	80	304	9	4.7%	7	6.2%	16 5.3%
1942	35	31	119	97	282	7	4.5%	7	5.5%	14 5.0%
1943	34	39	106	81	260	2	1.4%	8	6.7%	10 3.8%

